REMARKS

Status of the Application

Claims 1-3 were previously pending of which, claim 1 was rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph and claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Braun et al. (US 4,714,822).

Applicant has amended claims 1 and 3 to correct minor informalities. Applicant has also added new claims 4-6 to more fully define the invention. No new matter adds through the amendments. For the reasons discussed below, withdrawal of the rejections is requested.

Claim Rejections- 35 U.S.C. 112, Second Paragraph

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. More particularly, the Office Action indicated that "Claim 1 recites that the electric heater is under the water tank, and that a probe is positioned on the heater in the tank. It is unclear if the heater is under or in the water".

To clarify the invention, Applicant has amended claim 1 to recite "an electric heater installed at bottom of said water tank", which covers the embodiment shown in Fig. 5 where the electric heater 5 can be a part of the bottom of the water tank with its upper surface facing the water tank.

It is believed that the amended claim 1 meets the requirements of 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Claim Rejections- 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Braun et al. (US 4,714,822).

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection for reasons discussed below.

Claim 1 recites "a probe unit provided on said electric heater in said water tank". Braun does not teach or suggest such a probe unit. Braun teaches a cooker and method for automatically controlling the heating of a pan with food material. Fig. 1 shows a cross-section of a hotplate 1 consisting of a flat cast-ion body 3, the underside 5 of which is provided with helical grooves 7, heater spirals 9 are fitted in these helical grooves 7. There is a hollow central region 11 covered by a contact cap 21, a temperature sensor 23 is in contact with the underside 25 of the cap 21. Col. 4, line 63 to Col. 5, line 15. Clearly, the temperature sensor 23 is not positioned inside a water tank.

The Office Action asserts that Braun discloses "a probe unit provided on said electric heater in said water tank". However, the Office Action fails to specifically point out where in his patent Braun teaches the probe unit in a water tank. The Examiner is respectfully requested to point out where in Braun' patent the probe unit in a water tank is taught. Otherwise, the rejection should be withdrawn.

For at least the reasons discussed above, claim 1 is not anticipated by Braun.

Claim 2 depends from claim 1 and, thus, is not anticipated by Braun for the same reasons. In addition, Braun also fails to teach a probe unit including a metal probe wrapped by an insulating material as required by claim 2.

Claim 3 recites a safety device of a coffee pot with a control circuit. The control circuit comprises two comparison circuits OP1, OP2, and a single-plate processing unit MCU. Braun does not teach or suggest such control circuit. Therefore, claim 3 is not anticipated by Braun.

New Claims

New claims 4-6 have been added to more fully protect the invention. Claims 4-6 depend on claims 1 and 2, respectively. They contain features that further distinguish over the cited prior art. New claims 4-6 are fully supported by the specification and the drawings.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims 1-6 are now in condition for allowance. Allowance of this application is earnestly solicited.

Respectively submitted
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